

To: Gray, David[gray.david@epa.gov]
From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Sat 8/29/2015 6:56:16 PM
Subject: FW: Press Inquiry: Associated Press (Brown #224)

From: Ostrander, David
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2015 2:54 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy; Carey, Curtis
Subject: Fwd: Press Inquiry: Associated Press (Brown #224)

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Stalcup, Dana" <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov>
Date: August 28, 2015 at 7:09:52 PM MDT
To: "Ostrander, David" <Ostrander.David@epa.gov>, "Mylott, Richard" <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Press Inquiry: Associated Press (Brown #224)

Thanks guys for excellent coordination and support – hang in there - Dana

Dana Stalcup

Director, Assessment and Remediation Division

OSWER/Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI)

Desk – 703-603-8702

Cell – 202-309-5473

From: Stalcup, Dana

Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 9:09 PM

To: Hawkins, CherylA; EOC Public Information

Cc: EOC Technical Specialist; EOC Solid Waste; Keller, Melanie; Mahmud, Shahid; Dreyfus, Melissa G.; Wells, Suzanne; EOC_Manager,; EOC_Deputy_Manager,; Cohen, Nancy; Hillenbrand, John; Mahmud, Shahid; Gilbert, Edward; Dailey, Anne; Fitz-James, Schatzi

Subject: RE: Press Inquiry: Associated Press (Brown #224)

Hi folks. OSRTI has worked with R8 on these answers, and they have been approved by OSWER AA. Thanks – Dana

1. Was the pond built in 2014?

We are not sure which retention pond(s) are being referred to as several were intended for potential use and treatment. To be comprehensive, the Red and Bonita ponds were built two or three years ago and the original retention pond at the Gold King mine was built early this construction season.

2. Was it still in place, not being used, deconstructed or was there some other issue with this pond?

The pond constructed at the Gold King Mine earlier this season was in place and designed for a controlled pump and treat system to draw down the mine pool.

3. What was the construction status of a retention pond and sludge management system that was called for in a work order dated 6/25/14?

The Gold King Mine retention pond was built and is described above. The Red and Bonita ponds were to be used as well.

4. When was a determination made on low or no mine water pressurization?

The intent of the work conducted on August 5 was to evaluate the blockage of water at the mine and was preliminary to any effort to remove and treat water. While there was no available evidence to indicate that the mine was full of water or pressurized, the work continued with the presumption of possible pressurization as a matter of caution.

5. Wants a link for trend graphs?

Trend graphs and other info can be found on the map viewer.

<https://gis.eparm.net/GoldKingMine>

6. What treatment system was outlined to be in place when the work began?

The planned treatment system was a retention pond that included caustic soda and a flocculent, and would allow the settling of materials from the mine drainage.

7. What treatment system was there when the work began? The planned treatment system was the one in place when the work began.

8. What treatment system is onsite now?

The current system is as described above with the addition of lime. Determinations about the future treatment will be made as we move forward. Treatment will likely include lime, flocculent, and retention pond for settling of sludge.

Dana Stalcup

Director, Assessment and Remediation Division

OSWER/Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI)

Desk – 703-603-8702

Cell – 202-309-5473

From: Hawkins, CherylA

Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 1:02 PM

To: EOC Public Information

Cc: EOC Technical Specialist; EOC Solid Waste; Keller, Melanie; Mahmud, Shahid; Dreyfus, Melissa G.; Wells, Suzanne; Stalcup, Dana

Subject: RE: Press Inquiry: Associated Press (Brown #224)

OSRTI has looked at the questions and determined that they should be sent to Region 8 for answers.

Cheryl A. Hawkins, Ph.D.

Science Policy Branch

Potomac Yards South
2777 Crystal Drive
Rm # S5833
Arlington, VA 22202

(703)603-8766

hawkins.cheryla@epa.gov

From: Selia, Emily **On Behalf Of** EOC Public Information

Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 12:59 PM

To: EOC Technical Specialist; EOC Solid Waste; Keller, Melanie; Mahmud, Shahid; Dreyfus, Melissa G.; Wells, Suzanne; Hawkins, CherylA

Subject: Press Inquiry: Associated Press (Brown #224)

Hi OSWER Team,

We have a new press inquiry from the Associated Press. These are follow-up questions for a reporter who has been looking at the documents online (the workplan etc and the internal review.) Deadline is ASAP.

He was already referred to page 4,5 and 6 of the review and found that insufficient. Can we please respond to the following questions? thank you.

1. Was the pond built in 2014?
2. Was it still in place, not being used, deconstructed or was there some other issue with this pond?
3. What was the construction status of a retention pond and sludge management system that was called for in a work order dated 6/25/14?
4. When was a determination made on low or no mine water pressurization?
5. Wants a link for trend graphs?
6. What treatment system was outlined to be in place when the work began?
7. What treatment system was there when the work began?
8. What treatment system is onsite now?